

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3353

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 728

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PFOR, ML, US

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS; REQUEST FOR MULTILATERAL
INFORMATION ON HOST GOVERNMENT

REF: STATE 37591

1. THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO QUESTIONS IN
PARA. 7, REFTEL:

A. PRIMARY INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES. MALI'S PRIMARY
MULTILATERAL INTEREST IS TO PRESERVE ITS SELF-PERCEIVED
IMAGE AS A LEADER AMONG THIRD WORLD "PROGRESSIVE STATES".
IT CAN MAINTAIN THAT POSITION ONLY BY MOVING OUT FRONT ON
POLITICAL ISSUES WHICH SET THE TONE AND STANDARDS OF THIRD-
WORLD IDEOLOGY; ANTI-COLONIALISM, DIVIDED-STATE ISSUES,
AND A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER. IT IS ALSO IN MALI'S INTEREST NOT
TO OFFEND MAJOR DONOR STATES ON WHICH ITS ECONOMIC SURVIVAL
DEPENDS. HOWEVER, MALI'S PRIDE AND PRINCIPLES MAY LEAD IT TO
UNDERESTIMATE THE EFFECT OF ITS POSITIONS ON
MULTILATERAL ISSUES ON BI-LATERAL RELATIONS.
IN 1976 MALI WILL FOCUS ON THE REMAINING DIVIDED-
STATE ISSUE BY GIVING STRONG SUPPORT TO PRO-NORTH
KOREAN INITIATIVES. IT WILL PUSH DECOLONIALIZATION
IN AFRICA AND WOULD SUPPORT ECONOMIC OR MILITARY
SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. IT WILL FAVOR ALL
GENERAL DECOLONIALIZATION RESOLUTIONS AND MAY, IN SPITE OF
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A MAJOR EMBASSY EFFORT, CO-SPONSOR THE PUERTO-RICAN

RESOLUTION. IN LOS AFFAIRS, MALI'S MAIN INTEREST IS ACCESS TO THE SEA AND TO FISH MARKETS. IT WILL SUPPORT THE GROUP OF 77 ON OTHER QUESTIONS. MALI MIGHT BE INDUCED TO BREAK RANKS HOWEVER, IF IT COULD SHARE IN THE EXPLOITATION OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE OR THE DEEP-SEA. AS ONE OF THE POORER OF THE LDC'S, MALI WILL SUPPORT NEW ECONOMIC ORDER OBJECTIVES INCLUDING REVAMPING THE IMF AND WORLD BANK STRUCTURES. MALI IS NOT SEEKING MEMBERSHIP IN ANY PARTICULAR ORGANIZATION OR SUPPORTING ANY CANDIDACIES.

B. EXTERNAL EFFECTS ON MULTILATERAL POLICY-MAKING. THIRD WORLD CONSENSUS SETS THE BOUNDS OF MALI'S MULTILATERAL POLICY-MAKING. MALI WILL NOT OPPOSE OR ABSTAIN ON AN ISSUE THAT ENJOYS STRONG THIRD-WORLD SUPPORT. IF THE THIRD WORLD OR AFRICAN BLOC SPLITS, MALI WILL LIKELY JOIN THE MORE RADICAL GROUP. OF INDIVIDUAL STATES, ALGERIA HAS THE MOST INFLUENCE ON MALIAN POLICY. GUINEA IS ALSO INFLUENTIAL. ALTHOUGH MALIAN AND GUINEAN INTERNAL POLICIES HAVE DIFFERED IN RECENT YEARS, MALIANS STILL ADMIRE SEKOU TOURE AS A WORLD LEADER. AMONG DONOR STATES THE SOVIET UNION HAS THE MOST INFLUENCE BECAUSE ITS MULTILATERAL VIEWS OFTEN COINCIDE WITH MALI'S; BECAUSE IT IS THE MAJOR SUPPLIER OF ARMS TO THE MALIAN ARMED FORCES; AND BECAUSE IT HOLDS A LARGE MALIAN DEBT. WE SUSPECT THAT MALIAN INITIATIVES ON THE PUERTO RICAN QUESTION MAY BE A MEANS OFPAYING OFF PART OF THE SOVIET DEBT. SINCE FRANCE IS CURRENTLY COVERING MALIAN BUDGET DEFICITS THROUGH THE FRENCH TREASURY COMPTE D'OPERATIONS, A SERIOUS FRENCH DEMARCHE MIGHT BRING MALIAN COMPLIANCE. INFLUENCE OF OTHER DONORS INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES IS LIMITED.

C. INSTRUCTIONS TO DELEGATIONS. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY GIVES GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO MALIAN DELEGATIONS BEFORE THEY LEAVE FOR INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. PAST EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT THE DELEGATION HAS COMPLETE TACTICAL LEEWAY AS LONG AS IT VOTES WITH RADICAL THIRD-WORLD STATES. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, MALIAN DELEGATIONS HAVE NEVER ASKED FOR OR RECEIVED INSTRUCTIOS TO COUNTER THE NON-ALIGNED CONSENSUS. DELEGATIONS SELDOM REPORT THEIR SPEECHES, STATEMENTS OR OTHER INITIATIVES THEY UNDERTAKE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

D. INDEPENDENT POLITICAL BASE. HEADS OF DELEGATIONS DO NOT HAVE AN INDEPENDENT POLITICAL BASE, THE FOREIGN MINISTER

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EXPECTED. BUT DELEGATION LEADERS, USUALLY EXPERIENCED DIPLOMATS, CAN APPEAL TO PRINCIPLE, COMITY, OR PRECEDENT SHOULD THE RULING MILITARY COMMITTEE EVER RECOMMEND A COURSE OF ACTION WHICH DIVERGES FROM MALI'S TRADITIONAL INTERNATIONAL RADICALISM. MALI'S MULTILATERAL POLICY IS NOT BASED ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, BUT ON THE JUDGMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY DIPLOMATS ON HOW BEST TO ENHANCE

MALI'S IMAGE WITHIN THE THIRD WORLD.

E. MALIAN RECEPTIVITY. MALI IS NOT RECEPTIVE TO U.S.
REPRESENTATIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES. FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIALS GIVE THE AMBASSADOR OR EMBOFF'S A COURTEOUS
HEARING FOLLOWED WITH A SHORT LECTURE ON THE NON-ALIGNED
PRINCIPLES OF MALI'S FOREIGN POLICY. ONE OF THOSE
PRINCIPLES IS THAT MULTILATERAL POSITIONS SHOULD NOT
AFFECT BI-LATERAL RELATIONS, A BELIEF WHICH THIS EMBASSY
HAS VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED. MALI DOES NOT SOLICIT
USG SUPPORT ON MULTILATERAL MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE, BUT ON STRICTLY
BILATERAL CONSIDERATIONS OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. EMBASSY
REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GRM ARE ALMOST ALWAYS ON MULTILATERAL
QUESTIONS, WHILE GRM APPROACHES TO THE EMBASSY ARE ON BILATERAL
MATTERS. THERE IS NO BASIS FOR STRICTLY MULTILATERAL BARTERING.
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